

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 2-15 and 17-26 are pending in the present Application. Claims 21-25 have been amended. Support for the amendment of Claims 21-25 can be found at least in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 6, 7, 14, 18, 19, and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Greenstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,131,016, hereinafter Greenstein); Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Greenstein, as applied to Claim 25 above, in view of Minami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,510, hereinafter Minami); and, claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Greenstein, as applied to Claim 25, in view of Ocenasek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,674,324, hereinafter Ocenasek).

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter recited in Claims 2-5, 9-13 and 17. However, as Applicants submit that the independent claims patently define over the applied references, these dependent claims are maintained in their present form.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to the Applicants' representative on June 21, 2006. During the interview, the rejections noted in the outstanding Official Action was discussed. However, no agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review and a response as filed. Comments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The outstanding Official Action has rejected Claims 6, 7, 14, 18, 19, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Greenstein. The Official Action contends that Greenstein discloses all of the Applicants' claimed features. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By way of background, in signal carrier communication systems, face comparison is typically done by comparison of pilot symbols. Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) systems are known in which adaptive antenna arrays are utilized. In OFDM systems, the available frequency band used for communication is divided in a plurality of frequency subcarriers, whereby adjacent frequency subcarriers are respectively orthogonal to each other. In such systems, co-channel interference is present and is estimated based upon correlation of received signals at a receiver side.¹

In light of at least the above noted deficiencies in the art, the present advancements are provided. With at least the above object in mind, a brief comparison of the claimed advancements, in view of the cited references, is believed to be in order.

Applicants' Claim 21, recites, *inter alia*, a method for transmitting signals using a plurality of subcarriers through a plurality of antenna elements in a multicarrier transmission system, the method including:

...detecting subcarrier channel response vectors corresponding to said plurality of antenna elements, wherein each of said channel response vectors includes subcarrier related elements corresponding to said plurality of subcarriers, and
adjusting transmission characteristics of said plurality of subcarriers in accordance with amplitude and/or phase of at least one of said detected subcarrier channel response vectors.

¹ Application at pages 1-2.

Greenstein describes a system for transmitting multi-carrier OFDM signals, including pilot tones. As shown in Fig. 2B, the downlink receiver, or terminal, performs differential phase detection of successive received pilot tones. In operation, the receiving terminal compares the strength of successive received pilot tones, and, determines which of the channels, that is the air channels associated with the respective transmit antenna, is currently carrying the stronger pilot tone. The terminal then sends this information back to the base station to select a corresponding transmission antenna.² As the pilot channel is representative of a cluster of subcarriers, the phase adjustment process is performed with respect to the propagation channels depending on the detected phase of the pilot tone. As shown in Fig. 2A, the waiting factors (w1) and (w2) are single values, which are applied to the propagation channel as a whole.

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of the Applicants' advancements, a transmission system is provided, in which signals are received through a plurality of antenna elements via a plurality of subcarriers. Each of the subcarrier transmission characteristics are adjusted in accordance with a detected subcarrier channel response vector. In this way, the subcarrier characteristics (e.g., phases) are adjusted to reduce multipath fading in the multicarrier transmission system. As Greenstein does not disclose, or suggest, adjusting individual subcarrier characteristics of a multicarrier transmission system, but, instead, a pilot tone, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' amended Claim 21 and any claim depending therefrom is patentably distinguished over the cited reference. Likewise, as independent Claims 22-26 recite substantially similar limitations to that discussed above,

² Greenstein at column 4, lines 53-63.

Applicants submit that these claims, and any claims depending therefrom, are also allowable over the cited reference.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 6, 7, 14, 18, 19, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

The Official Action has rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Greenstein in view of Minami. The Official Action contends that Greenstein discloses all of the Applicants' claim limitations, with the exception of limiting an adjustment of the magnitude of a sub-carrier signal to an upper threshold. However, the Official Action cites Minami as disclosing this feature of the Applicants' claim and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references for arriving at the Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, Greenstein does not disclose all of the elements of the Applicants' claims for which it has been asserted. As Minami does not remedy the deficiency discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

The Official Action has rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Greenstein in view of Ocenasek. The Official Action contends that Greenstein discloses all of the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of a software implementation. However, the Official Action cites Ocenasek as describing this more detailed aspect of the Applicants' claim, and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the cited references for arriving at the Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As noted above, Greenstein does not disclose, or suggest, all of the elements for which it has been asserted. As Ocenasek does not remedy the deficiency discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented.

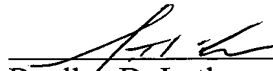
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 2-15 and 17-26, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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